

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

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DEPT FOR OES/SCI:RICHMOND; PASS NIH, NSF

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN, FR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DGRST'S DIRECTOR CURIEN

REF: STATE 005162

SUMMARY: DGRST'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR PEISSIK
INDICATES THAT DR. CURIEN AND PARTY ARE CONTENT WITH
SCHEDULE FOR THEIR JANUARY 23-24 VISIT TO WASHINGTON.
THE GROUP DESIRES TO PUT SOME "STEAM" INTO THE US-
FRENCH BILATERAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NO SPECIFIC DETAILED PROPOSALS TO
TABLE AT THIS MEETING.

2. THE SCHEDULE AS RECEIVED BY DGRST FROM THE FRENCH
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON: JANUARY 23 - MORNING WITH
FRENCH EMBASSY, LUNCH AND AFTERNOON AT STATE DEPARTMENT;
JANUARY 24 - MORNING MEETING WITH PROFESSOR MC CLOUD OF
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY TO DISCUSS STUDIES ON CONTROLL-
ING THE ADVANCEMENT OF DESERT AREAS, FOLLOWED BY A
MEETING AT NSF WITH MR. HERWIG TO DISCUSS SOLAR ENERGY,
LUNCH WITH DR. STEVER AND THE AFTERNOON AT NIH WITH DR.
LEAVITT AT THE FOGARTY CENTER AND THEN DR. F. BERGMANN,
DIRECTOR OF NIH GENETIC PROGRAMS.

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3. RE VISIT WITH MC CLOUD, PEISSIK MENTIONED THAT THE FRENCH WERE NOT INTERESTED IN REVIVING A PAST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ON THE SAHEL (APPARENTLY USAID WITH FRENCH EXPERTS PARTICIPATING) BUT WERE VISITING MC CLOUD TO GAIN AN OVERALL PICTURE OF CURRENT US ACTIVITIES ON DESERT ENCROACHMENT, INCLUDING THE USE OF SATELLITE OBSERVATION TECHNIQUES, TOWARD IDENTIFYING AREAS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE NSF HERWIG VISIT, PEISSIK INDICATED THEY WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE TECHNOLOGY OF PHOTO CONVERSION CELLS.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE MEETING WITH DR. LEAVITT, DR. CURIEN DESIRED TO GAIN AN OVERALL VIEW OF US-FRENCH MEDICAL COOPERATION TO ASSIST HIM IN JUDGING NEW PROPOSALS. DR. CURIEN HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS US GENETIC RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND FOR THAT REASON WELCOMED THE SCHEDULING OF AN APPOINTMENT WITH DR. BERGMANN.

6. THE EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICE HAS DETECTED IN RECENT WEEKS INDICATIONS THAT THE FRENCH WOULD WELCOME AN INCREASE IN THE VITALITY OF THE US-FRENCH S & T BILATERAL ACTIVITY. PEISSIK MENTIONED THE PROGRAM SHOULD HAVE MORE "STEAM". HE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT CONTAINED SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION AND HE HOPED TO DISCUSS SOME OF THESE IN WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION TO THE SUBJECT AREAS SPECIFICALLY COVERED IN THE ABOVE SCHEDULE, PEISSIK INDICATED THAT SHOULD TIME BE AVAILABLE THE DGRST WOULD WELCOME EXPLORING POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN RECYCLING INDUSTRIAL WASTES AND THE S & T ASPECTS OF FOOD REGULATION SUCH AS CARRIED OUT BY FDA. PEISSIK AGREED WITH SCICON THAT, AT THIS POINT, THE BEST RESULTS OF THE MEETING THAT COULD BE EXPECTED WOULD BE FOR SOME NEW AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION BE IDENTIFIED SO THAT IN FOLLOW-ON EFFORTS TECHNICAL EXPERTS COULD DEVELOP DRAFT PROTOCOLS FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PROGRAMS.

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7. EMBASSY SCICON WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING REPORT OF THE MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS ON FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS TO BE TAKEN IN PARIS.

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